

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 8 and 9 have been amended to more clearly point out the feature of the invention of the present application. Claims 3 and 10 have been rewritten in independent forms, respectively. Support for amendments to claims 1, 2, 8 and 9 may be found throughout the specification and the drawings. No new matter has been introduced.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is drawn to detecting exclusively a writable area of a user data area by excluding other areas such as the header or servo areas, and that neither Satoh et al. nor the admitted prior art teaches or suggests “a detection unit for detecting only the writable area of the user data area of the recording medium by using an output signal of the latch unit and the pulse signal,” as recited in the currently presented claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over Satoh et al. in view of the admitted prior art.

For similar reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that other independent claims 2, 8 and 9 are patentable over Satoh et al. in view of the admitted prior art.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 5, 6, 12 and 13 are dependent claims including all of the elements recited in claims 2 or 9, and therefore are also patentable over Satoh et al. in view of the admitted prior art, at least because of their dependency from the independent claims 2 and 9.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)
U.S. Application No.: 10/730,060

Attorney Docket No.: Q76622

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

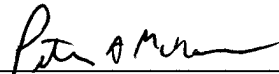
Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER



Peter A. McKenna
Registration No. 38,551

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